

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RASMITH/DOD/ISA:FKING:SJP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126375

EXDIS, MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL PRESENCE IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 14509

1. RAMASUN: IN THE LIGHT OF PARA 5 REFTEL WE ACCEPT
JUNE 14 AS THE CRITICAL DATE BY WHICH DECISIONS ON RETRO-
GRADE MUST BE TAKEN.

2. AIT: YOU MAY TELL PHICHAJ THAT WE ARE EXPLORING EVERY
POSSIBILITY ON AIT AND HOPE TO HAVE A POSITION SHORTLY.
YOU MAY ADD THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE THAI
ATTACH TO THE RETENTION OF AIT IN THAILAND BUT THAT THE
WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM THAILAND AUTOMATICALLY
BRING TO BEAR SPECIFIC LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIRE-
MENTS WHICH SEVERELY LIMIT OUR MANEUVERABILITY ON THIS
ISSUE. IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO MEET THE THAI REQUEST THAT

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AIT REMAIN IN THAILAND THROUGH MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PUR-

CHASING ARRANGEMENTS, WE WOULD WANT WRITTEN CONFIRMATION THAT AIT WAS EXEMPT FROM THE JULY 20 DEADLINE.

3. FYI: THE ISSUE HERE INVOLVES THE QUESTION OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT VERY LITTLE CAN BE DONE TO

REDUCE THE PRICE OF THE AMMUNITION BECAUSE OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO RETAIN THE AMMUNITION IN THAILAND FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD IF APPROPRIATE RELIEF FROM SECTION 514 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT IS PASSED. IN ADDITION TO LEGISLATIVE RELIEF, THE RTG MAY HAVE TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH DESIGNATES THE AMMUNITION STORAGE AREA AS A U.S. FACILITY (DEPENDS ON THE LANGUAGE OF SECTION 514); AGREE TO PURCHASE THE AMMUNITION OVER A SPECIFIED PERIOD; DEFRAID ALL STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS; AND AGREE TO PERMIT AN ORDERLY RETROGRADE BEYOND 20 JULY IF SUITABLE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND/OR LEGISLATIVE RELIEF ARE NOT FORTHCOMING. END FYI. ROBINSON

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